

MINUTES

UTAH EDUCATION COMMITTEE BOARD OF NURSING

March 10, 2011

**Room 474 – 4th Floor – 7:30 a.m.
Heber Wells Building
Salt Lake City, UT 84111**

CONVENED: 7:32 a.m.

ADJOURNED: 9:14 a.m.

Bureau Manager:
Secretary:

Noel Taxin
Shirlene Kimball

Conducting:

Gigi Marshall

Committee Members Present:

Peggy Brown
Mary Williams
Gigi Marshall
Pam Rice

Committee Members Excused:

Sheryl Steadman

Guests:

Geeta Maharaj, Everest College
Phyllis Gertge, Nightingale School of Nursing
Susan Jero, Nightingale School of Nursing
Julie Aiken, Ameritech College
Gene Reynolds, Provo College
Tamara Berghart, Weber State University

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION **NEW BUSINESS:**

February 10, 2011 Minutes:

Provo College,
Gene Reynolds:

DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The February 10, 2011 minutes were approved as written.

Mr. Reynolds, the interim program administrator for Provo College met with Committee members to address concerns regarding the decline in NCLEX pass rates. Mr. Reynolds stated he has been a faculty member at the program for two years and is now the interim program administrator. He stated there may be a number of factors leading to the decline in the pass rates. He stated one factor could be the number of program administrators that have been at the program.

He also indicated the program expanded to the Eagle Gate College group and prior to this expansion, the program was small and the program administrator and faculty members made the decisions. Now, there are corporate executives who make the decisions and make the changes regarding curriculum. Ms. Marshall questioned what changes were made to the curriculum. Mr. Reynolds stated the curriculum was not rewritten, but redirected. He stated the largest change was with the class number 222, which is offered just prior to graduation and was changed from a mixture of tools for the caring practitioner to a mixture of filling the gaps in knowledge and helping students develop nursing philosophy, resume building and introducing students to non-traditional roles. Mr. Reynolds stated he felt this was a big change. He also stated they switched from the HESI to ATI in January of last year.

Committee members questioned what plans have been put in place to rectify the low NCLEX pass rates. He reported that throughout this semester the faculty will follow a plan that has already been implemented. They will continue with ATI testing, will offer a lot of practice tests including two comprehensive predictor tests, and the program will provide remediation in between the testing. The students meet individually with academic advisors to see what areas they need to work on. Ms. Marshall questioned whether or not the benchmark has been removed. Mr. Reynolds stated no it has not been removed but has been reduced and the student must score 77% or above. He stated they originally set the benchmark at 80%, but at this point they want the student to aim for 90%. He stated last summer the syllabus had a benchmark of level 2 or higher on the predictor exam and the faculty was told to take that out of the syllabus. He stated passing the course is not based on passing the predictor exam and the program does not hold transcripts.

Mr. Reynolds stated the largest cohort was 50 students who did split sessions. He indicated they currently have 4 cohorts, consisting of 20, 20, 37 and 30 students for a total of 107 students. He indicated they were currently running short one faculty member. He indicated they have 4 faculty members and 1 interim program assistant. He reported every faculty member

teaches two courses, plus some have one clinical rotation in the week and others preceptor students. There is an adjunct faculty member teaching content seminar and another monitoring grades and testing for the course. The adjunct faculty member is doing two rotations a week and two adjunct faculty members are doing one rotation a week. Committee members question student faculty ratio. He stated that the clinical practice ratio is 1 to 10. Classroom is either 1 to 20 or 1 to 40.

Ms. Brown stated that in review of the structure diagram, it appears that Provo College and Eagle Gate College have parallel programs. Committee members were under the understanding that they were going to replicate the Provo program for the Eagle Gate program using the same content and same course descriptions. Mr. Reynolds stated the courses did not change at Provo, but they were realigned. There were no changes in course description, but the orientation and syllabus changed significantly. The syllabi is now at the corporate office and the faculty at Provo College receive their assignment descriptions. The objectives are identical across both programs.

Dr. Williams stated as described, it appears that the faculty is overwhelmed and questioned whether or not the Provo program is staffed at a lower level than prior years. Mr. Reynolds stated the staff numbers have remained the same, but they have added 40 students. Dr. Williams questioned if there are any plans to expand the faculty. She stated she is concerned that the students will not have a good experience because faculty members are overwhelmed. Ms. Marshall questioned faculty development. Mr. Reynolds indicated they have had some corporate faculty meetings, but they would benefit from having side by side mentoring or in the class rooms. Dr. Williams questioned whether or not they are changing student policies to eliminate those students who have struggled from the beginning. Mr. Reynolds stated at this point, no, they are a for profit business and if they lose a student they lose money. He indicated they no longer conduct an interview before accepting a student into the program. The prospective student now writes an essay, but faculty members do not meet with the

student prior to being admitted. He stated he is not sure if they require a GPA and if they do, he does not know the minimum GPA requirement. Ms. Brown questioned whether or not the school is solvent and who has control over the budget. He stated the budget is run by the corporate office and he does not know if the school is solvent. Dr. Williams stated part of the criteria is that the program administrator has input into the budget and the program would be in violation if he doesn't have significant input into the budget. Committee members stated it appears he is in a difficult situation and they are concern for the students. Committee members indicated that Dr. Duke, Gordon Peters, campus director; and the chief financial officer be requested to meet with the Committee to discuss these concerns. Provo College had a good program, but it appears it is headed in a downward direction. Dr. Williams would like the individuals from Provo College to address: faculty workload which appears to be unmanageable; budget control and input; budgetary solvency of the corporation; admission criteria (admission process); progression policies; faculty development and orientation. Committee members would like a list of faculty members, the workload for each faculty member, the program administrator and vita; list of courses taught by each faculty member, both didactic and clinical and accountability. Also include retention policies and progression. Committee members would also suggest they reinstate the student interviews for admission.

Committee members thanked Mr. Reynolds for his time and for his candor.

Break 8:25
Reconvened 8:30

Ameritech College,
Julie Aiken:

Ms. Aiken stated the program successfully completed the NLNAC process and anticipates a letter from NLNAC regarding certification. Ms. Aiken indicated she will forward the letter once it is received.

Ms. Aiken stated a second issue is in regards to academic dishonesty. She indicated she feels this has been the reason for the recent low NCLEX pass rates.

She indicated a student came forward and reported there was a group of students in the cohort who purchased the standardized HESI exam online and were able to obtain enough questions to pass the HESI exam at a high level. However, the first five failed the NCLEX. There are still four students that need to test, and two of the four were in the group who were able to purchase the exam online. Ms. Aiken reported even with these failures, the program still has an 85% NCLEX pass rate. Ms. Aiken indicated she spoke with all students and has placed a note in all seven student files that the school believes were involved in the incident. Ms. Aiken stated the program does not have hard evidence against the students, so the school can not revoke their degree. She reported the program has taken several steps to make sure the program is safe. She stated they have removed all test bank questions, brought in a University of Utah individual to teach faculty members item writing techniques and to ensure questions are appropriate. The HESI has given them detailed information on what that company is doing to prevent this from happening again and reported they are going after the website. She also reported the HESI has constructed an individual exam for Ameritech. Ms. Aiken stated the exam process is moving forward, the next cohort will graduate in April. Committee members commended Ms. Aiken for handling the situation quickly and appropriately.

Ms. Aiken stated another issue was a student who the Division made eligible to sit for the NCLEX exam without her transcript being finalized. The student sat for and passed the NCLEX examination. Committee members requested this student be brought in to meet with the Committee for an interview.

The Division will review the Memorandum of Understanding to determine if Ameritech has met all conditions of the Order. If all the documentation is submitted and the program meets the conditions by the next meeting, Committee members could make the determination to take the program off probationary status and if the NCLEX pass rates remain about 5% of the national average, they will also be taken off provisional status.

Review of Written Reports from:
Ameritech College
Julie Aiken:

Reviewed and accepted.

Eagle Gate College,
Lee Duke:

Report reviewed. The report indicates there are currently 20 students at the Salt Lake site and 16 students at the Layton site. The Salt Lake site has on full time equivalent faculty member and one adjunct faculty teaching at the present. They are in the process of hiring a full time faculty member. Layton site has two full time faculty members and the ratio is 1:8 in the practice setting and 1:16 in the classroom. The program has integrated ATI throughout the curriculum.

Everest College,
Geeta Maharaj:

Report reviewed. Ms. Maharaj stated they have 16 students starting the nursing program of the 24 enrolled. Committee members would like CV for faculty members.

Fortis College,
Glenda Christiaens:

Report reviewed. Ms. Christiaens reported the program is meeting program outcomes. She indicated they are using simulation for part of the clinicals. Dr. Williams stated that according to Rule, 25% of clinicals can be simulation. Committee members reviewed and accepted the report.

Nightingale College, School of Nursing,
Phyllis Gertge and Sue Jerro:

Ms. Gertge reported April 18, 2011 is the target start date and they expect to enroll 10 students in the first and third semesters of the program. They have hired a simulation lab technician. The lab technician will not be involved in any teaching or supervision, but will oversee the lab mannequins and supplies. She also reported the program has good solvency.

University of Southern Nevada,
Marlene Luna:

Report reviewed and accepted. There are currently 38 students enrolled in the nursing program and 18 students will complete the program July 2011. There were 21 students in the 2012; however, one student did not earn the required 90% in Block 2 and will re-enter the nursing program at the Henderson Nevada campus in the fall. The NLNAC site visit for the program is scheduled for March 17, 2011. Dr. Williams will attend the NLNAC exit interview and will report on the interview next month.

University of Utah, DNP program
Patricia Murphy:

Committee members reviewed and accepted the report. Dr. Murphy reported the program is awaiting CCNE re-accreditation and the DNP accreditation site visit is scheduled for March 9-11, 2011.

Western Governor's University,
Carolyn Lewis:

A written report was not received from Western Governor's University and Dr. Lewis will be contact and invited to meet with the Committee.

Ms. Brown – follow-up report on South University, the Georgia online nursing education program:

Ms. Brown indicated she contacted the program and the information submitted was sent to all States. Ms. Brown stated they would not send a student to Utah for clinicals unless that student was from Utah.

Ms. Taxin:

Ms. Taxin reported she received a few complaints that some nursing programs are not paying their staff and she questioned whether or not the Board should be reviewing this information. Education Committee members indicated anything that effects student outcomes should be reviewed by the Board. If it is not a nursing program and is a CNA program, it would then be referred to the Utah Nursing Assistant Registry.

Note: These minutes are not intended to be a verbatim transcript but are intended to record the significant features of the business conducted in this meeting. Discussed items are not necessarily shown in the chronological order they occurred.

May 12, 2011
Date Approved

(ss) Gigi Marshall
Gigi Marshall, Co-Chair, Education Committee, Board of Nursing

May 12, 2011
Date Approved

(ss) David Taylor, for
Noel Taxin, Bureau Manager, Division of Occupational & Professional Licensing